

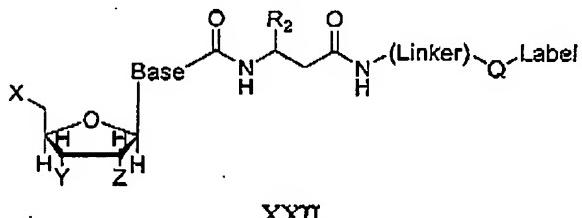
Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of claims:

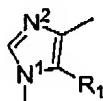
1 – 35. (Canceled).

36. (Amended) An oligonucleotide comprising a detectable label of formula XXII:



alone or in combination with a counterion thereof or a stable salt, solvate, clathrate or mixture thereof, wherein:

base is

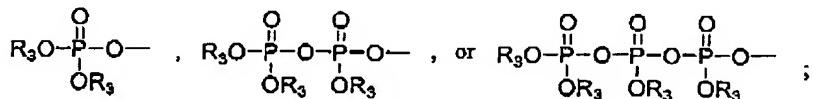


wherein sugar is covalently bonded to N¹ of the base;

wherein R₁ is -NHC(O)NH₂, -H, -NH₂, -OH, -O(alkyl), alkyl, or CO₂H;

wherein R₂ is -H or alkyl;

each of X, Y, and Z is independently -H, -OH, -O(alkyl), -SH, -SR₄, -NHR₄, -NR₄R₅,



wherein R₃ is -H or metal;

R₄ is -H or alkyl;

R₅ is -H or alkyl;

linker is (CH₂CH₂O)_nCH₂CH₂, (CH₂CH₂O)_n, (CH₂O)_n or (CH₂)_n;

wherein n is an integer from 1 to 30;

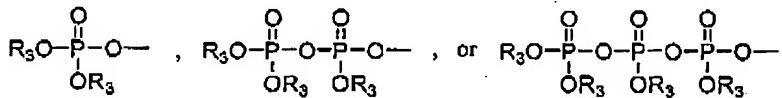
Q is O, S, or NH; and

label is a colorimetric, chemiluminescent, bioluminescent, a fluorescent compound, a non- or weakly fluorescent compound, or a quencher.

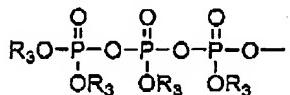
37. (original) The oligonucleotide of claim 36, wherein at least one of X, Y, and Z is OH.

38. (original) The oligonucleotide of claim 36, wherein each of X, Y, and Z is OH.

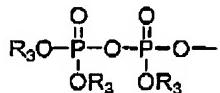
39. (original) The oligonucleotide of claim 36, wherein at least one of Y and Z is OH and X is



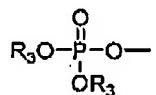
40. (original) The oligonucleotide of claim 36, wherein X is



41. (original) The oligonucleotide of claim 36, wherein X is



42. (original) The oligonucleotide of claim 36, wherein X is



43. (Canceled)

44. (original) The oligonucleotide of claim 36, wherein the linker is $(\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{O})_n$, and wherein n is an integer from 1 to 10.

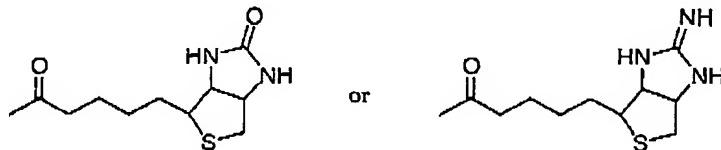
45. (original) The oligonucleotide of claim 36, wherein the label is biotin, a biotin derivative or a fluorophore.

46. (original) The oligonucleotide of claim 36, wherein the fluorophore is fluorescein, tetrachlorofluorescein, hexachlorofluorescein, a non or weakly fluorescent

Atty Docket: 21320-US
Serial No. 10/719,257
Response to Non-Final Action
Page 4 of 6

compound, Cy3, tetramethylrhodamine, Cy3.5, carboxy-x-rhodamine, Texas Red, Cy5, Cy5.5, phycoerythrin, or allophycocyanin.

47. (original) The oligonucleotide of claim 36, wherein the label is



48 - 78. (Canceled)

79. (Currently amended) A kit for real time PCR assays comprising the detectable label of claim 35 36, a negative or positive control, a buffer, and a DNA polymerase.

80. (Currently amended) A kit for RNase detection assays comprising the detectable label of claim 35 36, a negative or positive control, a buffer, and RNase-free water.

81. (New) The oligonucleotide of claim 36, wherein the linker is $(CH_2CH_2O)_nCH_2CH_2$.